

**CREDITON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**1923.**

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**MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

FOR

**Year ending December 31st, 1923.**

## To the Members of the Crediton Rural District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1923, during which period the health of the district has been remarkably good. I am glad to see the repairing of old cottages which I asked for last year, has been more rapid during the last few months, and is continuing, as since January 1st, 1924, 27 dwelling houses have had repairs done according to instructions, and notices for repairs have been sent to the owners of 35 other houses. I have every reason to hope, that, if our new Sanitary Inspector is well supported and encouraged, we shall see a marked improvement in the district in the course of the next year or two.

I have recently called the attention of the Council to two serious defects in the district. One, the very bad drainage, or rather, the want of a drainage system, in the village of Chawleigh. Two, the very bad water supply for the village of Sandford. I hope the remedying of these two defects will be kept in mind by the Council during the next twelve months.

### 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 93,508 Acres; Population 10,080; Number of Inhabited houses: no return; Practically no house in double occupation; Rateable value £72,554; Sum represented by a Penny Rate £300.

### 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS	{	Legitimate	M. 80	F. 96	}	Birth Rate 18.4
		Illegitimate	7	3		

The average Birth Rate for England this year 19.7 per 1,000. This is very nearly the same as last year.

	M.	F.	Total.	
DEATHS	56	64	120	Rate 11.9
Compared with last year			142	„ 14.1
And with year before			126	„ 12.6
This compares with all England				„ 11.6

There was no death in the whole district from any kind of Zymotic disease or child birth (with the exception of two from influenza). There were eight deaths from Tuberculosis. This is a slight improvement compared with the last few years.

Deaths of Infants under one year, 8 { Legitimate 8  
Illegitimate 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years, none).

Compared with last year, which was 14, this is very satisfactory.

Rate 43 per 1,000 births.  
Death Rate for England being 69.

### 3. NOTIFIABLE DEASEASES.

Diphtheria, 5.

(Four of which were traced to a source of infection outside the district.  
Three sent to Sanatorium. No deaths).

Scarlet Fever 8 ; No deaths  
Typhoid „ None  
Puerperal „ None  
Pneumonia 1

Tuberculosis :—

Pulmonary	...	{ M	...	...	...	7
		{ F	...	...	...	9
		{ Total	...	...	...	16
Non-Pulmonary	{	M	...	...	...	4
		F	...	...	...	3
		Total	...	...	...	7

I think the notification of Tuberculosis in this district is quite satisfactory. All houses are disinfected after death or removal.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—none.

#### 4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There was no case we could trace directly to bad sanitary surroundings. But I have no doubt that if our cottages had more air and light and dry foundations, we should see much less Tuberculosis.

#### 5. NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Practically the whole of the district is covered by Nurses who act as Midwives, and as the old non-registered Midwife has been done away with, I think it should be seen to that one of the registered Midwives should take the village of Hittisleigh, at present unprovided for.

MIDWIVES: One acts as Midwife only. The rest combine Midwifery and Nursing.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

1. *Maternity and Child Welfare Centres*: There is one at Crediton.
2. *Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases*: These go to Exeter and Barnstaple.

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

None in the district. Cases sent to Isolation Hospital, Exeter, by arrangement, the Council paying for each case sent in by the Medical Officer of Health. Tuberculosis Cases are provided for by the Devon County Council, there being no Hospital or Sanatorium in the district. There is no Hospital in the district for Maternity, Children, Fever or Small Pox.

#### AMBULANCE.

Ambulance for infectious and non-infectious cases and accidents procured from Exeter when required.

## 6. LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological specimens for poor people sent to Devon County Council.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin for poor people provided by the Rural District Council through the Medical Officer of Health.

## 7. REGULAR INSPECTION OF PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED, AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

As dairies are now registered, I hope we shall find better conditions from having them under control.

Slaughter houses are not registered or licensed. Their condition is fair.

## 8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION.

Sanitary Inspector disinfects after all notifiable diseases, including Tuberculosis.

## 9. SALARIES.

Medical Officer of Health part-time salary £65 ;  
Sanitary Inspector £200.

## 10. HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected during the year :—

(a) 8

(b) 0

1. Unfit dwelling-houses :—

(1). Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects, about 50.

(2). ———

(3). Number of dwelling-houses condemned 6.

Number closed 2 only, as no other house to put the occupants in.

(4). Number of houses found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation ; 21.

2. Remedy of defects :—

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of officers ; several.

3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

(A) Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919, not adopted.

(1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ; 19.

(2). Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) By Owners ; 10.

(b) By Local Authority ; none.

(3). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative ; 2.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Act ; nil.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

L. POWNE, M.O.H.

CREDITON,

*1st May, 1924.*